

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH

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USEC

USOECD, ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PORS, IT
SUBJECT: STRIKE UPDATE: RAILROADS AND POLICE UNION

REF: ROME 20614 AND 20214

1. SUMMARY. ITALY'S TRAINS BEGAN TO GET BACK ON SCHEDULE DECEMBER 21.
A QUICK JANUARY ADVANCE ON AN EVENTUAL RETROACTIVE SETTLEMENT
INDUCED THE INDEPENDENT RAIL UNION FISAFS TO SUSPEND THE SERIES
OF SHORT STRIKES WHICH HAVE SNARLED ITALY'S HOLIDAY RAIL TRAFFIC.
CCU UNIONS, EXCEPT RAIL UNIONS, HELD A ONE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE
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DECEMBER 20 IN SUPPORT OF POLICE UNIONIZATION? END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 21, THE INDEPENDENT ("AUTONOMOUS") RAILROAD
WORKERS' UNION FISAFS ENDED ITS SERIES OF ONE-HOUR AND THREE-
HOUR STRIKES WHICH HAVE SNARLED ITALY'S HOLIDAY RAIL TRAFFIC.
FISAFS SUSPENDED ITS STRIKES IN RESPONSE TO AN 80,000 LIRE ADVANCE
TO BE GIVEN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN JANUARY IN ANTICIPATION OF AN

EVENTUAL RETROACTIVE RAISE TO BRING THE LOW PAY OF ITALY'S RAILWAY WORKERS MORE IN LINE WITH THE HIGHER PAY OF MUNICIPAL TRANSIT AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION SECTOR WORKERS. TRANSPORT MINISTER LATTANZIO FIRST AGREED ON THIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE CGIL, CISL AND UIL RAILROAD UNIONS. HIS UNDERSECRETARY THEN MET WITH FISAFS TO INFORM THEM AND TO ASSURE THEM OF PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND OTHER ISSUES (PARTICULARLY MORE AUTONOMOUS STATUS FOR THE STATE RAILROAD, INCLUDING AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS WITHOUT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL.) FISAFS DID NOT ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF RECOGNITION ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THE THREE CCU RAIL UNIONS, BUT DID ENHANCE ITS STATUS AND TREATMENT SOMEWHAT. FISAFS RESERVED THE OPTION OF REOPENING ITS STRIKE IF IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS PROVE DISAPPOINTING.

3. COMMENT. FISAFS IS THE MOST MILITANT AND EFFECTIVE OF THE AUTONOMOUS UNIONS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE AIRLINE PILOTS' UNION (ANPAC). FISAFS IS GROWING IN MEMBERSHIP AND PRESTIGE IN RELATION TO THE CCU UNIONS, AND ENJOYS INCREASING RESPECT AND POPULARITY AMONG THE OTHER "AUTONOMOUS" UNIONS. ABOUT HALF OF THE AUTONOMOUS UNIONS BELONG TO THE CONFEDERATION CISAL, WHICH RECENTLY HELD ITS CONGRESS IN ROME. FISAFS PRESIDENT PIETRANGELI, A GUEST ALONG WITH LEADERS OF OTHER NON-AFFILIATED, AUTONOMOUS UNIONS WAS THE MOST APPLAUDED FIGURE. CISAL AND THE OTHER AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS LAID PLANS TO TRY TO CONSOLIDATE THEMSELVES NEXT JUNE INTO ONE BIG CONFEDERATION IN COMPETITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH CGIL, CISL AND UIL. END COMMENT.

4. CCU UNIONS HELD A ONE-HOUR NATIONWIDE GENERAL STRIKE 10-11 AM DECEMBER 20 IN SUPPORT OF POLICE REFORM LEGISLATION TO DEMILITARIZE POLICEMEN AND ALLOW THEM TO JOIN UNIONS OF THEIR CHOICE. ORGANIZERS OF THE POLICE UNION-IN-FORMATION (REFTEL) SPOKE TO WORKER ASSEMBLIES AT MAJOR FACTORIES EXPLAINING THEIR AIMS. THE CCU RAIL UNIONS DID NOT STRIKE, IN ORDER TO AVOID GIVING ANY HELP TO THE FISAFS STRIKE. MUNICIPAL TRANSIT WORKERS STOPPED TRAFFIC ONLY 15 MINUTES, BUT MOST TRAFFIC AT ROME'S FIUMICINO AIRPORT WAS BLOCKED FOR TWO HOURS. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH OPPOSES FREEDOM FOR THE POLICE TO ORGANIZE A UNION AFFILIATED TO CCU AND WANTS TO DEMILITARIZE ONLY THE LESS VITAL POLICE ELEMENTS, SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE CCU STRIKE FOR EXERCISING WHAT IT TERMED ILLICIT PRESSURE ON PARLIAMENT AND TRYING TO UNDERMINE PARLIAMENTARY SOVEREIGNTY IN A VERY DELICATE AREA. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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